

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**EA Number:** DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2012-25-EA

Lease/Serial Case File No.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Kingman Field Office (KFO)

Proposed Action Title/Type: Construction of a non-motorized loop trail between Castle Rock and Fort Beale Loop trails

Location of Proposed Action: T. 21N R. 17W Sections: 4, 9 & 10.

Applicant (if any): BLM, KFO, Recreation Program

### CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAND USE PLAN:

This proposed action is in conformance with the Kingman Resource Management Plan approved March 1995.

Remarks: (Cite the implementation plan number)

RR08/V      Develop day use/trailhead sites, trails, campgrounds and interpretive sites within SRMAs  
(Alternative 2 on page 76, Table 8 on page 78 and Table on pages 138-139)

This proposed action is also consistent with the *Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area Management Plan* (May, 1995) EA# AZ-025-94-046 which identified development of trails within the CFRA.

### PURPOSE AND NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION:

The purpose of the proposed action is to enhance the recreational opportunities within CFRA. The proposed action is needed to increase recreational trail diversity and experience for non-motorized users. The purpose of this trail would be to satisfy public non-motorized trail user requests while meeting the goals of the KFO BLM Recreation Program.

### DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Construct and maintain an approximately one and a half mile connector trail within the Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area. The trail would begin north of Camp Beale Loop on City of Kingman land in Section 10. From Camp Beale Loop, the proposed trail would head west on a reclaiming jeep route for 1/10 of a mile on City lands before entering Public lands in Section 9. From there, the trail would continue along the reclaiming route for approximately half a mile before turning North onto Section 4 crossing City lands for less than 1/10 of a mile. A swing gate would be constructed where the trail crosses a fence line that runs North-South in Section 04 and designates the boundary between BLM and City of Kingman Lands. This gate will allow trail user's access and will not impair the fence's ability to act as a barrier for cattle. From there, the trail would continue on another three quarters of a mile in public lands. The trail would end on public lands at a bench on Castle Rock Trail.

BLM staff and volunteers would conduct the trail construction and maintenance. The volunteers would mountain bike, hike, or horseback ride to trail location and work during the day. Eagle Scouts would complete gate construction and would use a UTV to haul in water, cement, and materials. Trail construction would include clearing brush in a corridor 6 feet wide, followed by excavation of soil and rock to form a level walking surface 2-3 feet in width and a tread outslope of 1-2 percent. Trail construction would remove 1.09 acres of wildlife and plant habitat and may result in some individual plants but would not affect any known plant

populations. Some wildlife such as rabbits and mule deer might be temporarily displaced short term by human presence and the noise of trail construction and use but would resume normal activity after trail construction is complete. All vegetation and rock would be hand carried off the trail and spread discretely to avoid piling of plant, sand, and rock. All viable cacti, yucca, and ocotillo would be replanted. Trail construction would be limited to pre-mapped route to avoid nearby cultural sites. The proposed trail would maintain a grade or 8 percent or less with pitches of no greater than 10 percent. These factors allow for user friendly trail features while limiting potential soil erosion. Non-motorized (hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding) recreational opportunities would exist on the trail year-round. Local volunteers would assist BLM in performing trail maintenance for the life of the trail. Fiberglass posts with decals to identify the new trail would be installed at trail junctions on both Camp Beale Loop and Castle Rock trail. Recreation use of the trail would be year-round, and would be limited to non-motorized uses (hiking, running, mountain biking and horseback riding).

The monitoring of the trail for the presence of exotic/invasive weeds by BLM staff, volunteers and the public would minimize the potential for weed introduction. The City of Kingman has been consulted with on trail construction and maintenance on City lands. Trail construction would begin in the spring of 2012.

## DESCRIPTION OF NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The trail would not be created under the no action alternative.

## AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area lies northwest of Kingman, Arizona city limits in the southern-most portion of the Cerbat Mountains. Access to the proposed trail would be from the pre-existing Castle Rock Trail that can be accessed from Badger Trailhead off of Highway 93 just North of Kingman, or Camp Beale Loop Trailhead off of Fort Beale Rd. in Kingman, AZ.

The affected environment was considered and analyzed by an interdisciplinary team as documented in the KFO Project Scoping Form found in the Administrative Record for this proposal. Resources of concern that are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted will not be discussed here. Resources which could be impacted by the proposed action or alternatives are discussed below.

This section describes the existing conditions of the environment and expected impacts. The table below summarizes the resources reviewed for this project. Resources not present within the project study area, as well as those present and not affected, are not discussed. Those resources that have been identified by an interdisciplinary team as present and potentially affected are discussed further below.

PROJECT RESOURCE review			
Resources Considered	Not Present	Present and Not Affected	Present and/or Potentially Affected
Air Quality*	X		
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern*	X		

PROJECT RESOURCE review			
Resources Considered	Not Present	Present and Not Affected	Present and/or Potentially Affected
Cultural and Historic*		<b>X</b>	
Environmental Justice* / Socioeconomics	<b>X</b>		
Floodplains*	<b>X</b>		
Grazing	<b>X</b>		
Hazardous or Solid Waste*	<b>X</b>		
Invasive and Non-native Species*	<b>X</b>		
Land Use	<b>X</b>		
Migratory Birds*		<b>X</b>	
Native American Religious Concerns*	<b>X</b>		
Prime and Unique Farmland*	<b>X</b>		
Threatened and Endangered Species*		<b>X</b>	
Vegetation	<b>X</b>		
Visual Resources	<b>X</b>		
Water Quality*	<b>X</b>		
Wetland or Riparian Zones*	<b>X</b>		
Wild and Scenic Rivers*	<b>X</b>		
Wilderness*	<b>X</b>		
Wildlife		<b>X</b>	
* Consideration Required By Law or Executive Order			

Expected impacts from the Proposed Action include the following:

#### Impacts from the Proposed Action

The trails would provide increased opportunities for non-motorized recreational use of public lands. There would be no effects to federally listed threatened or endangered species, critical habitat, or cultural resources (Biological and Cultural Evaluation February 10, 2012).

#### Impacts from the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, a new trail would not be constructed and non-motorized recreation opportunities would remain on the existing Castle Rock Trail.

#### Cumulative Impacts

There would be no cumulative impacts to T&E species or culturally sensitive sites as long as the non-motorized recreators remain on existing roads and trails.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND RESIDUAL IMPACTS:**

Trail maintenance measures would be taken throughout the life of the trail to reduce the potential for soil erosion. The trail would be clearly marked and maintained to keep users on trail surface.

#### **PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED:**

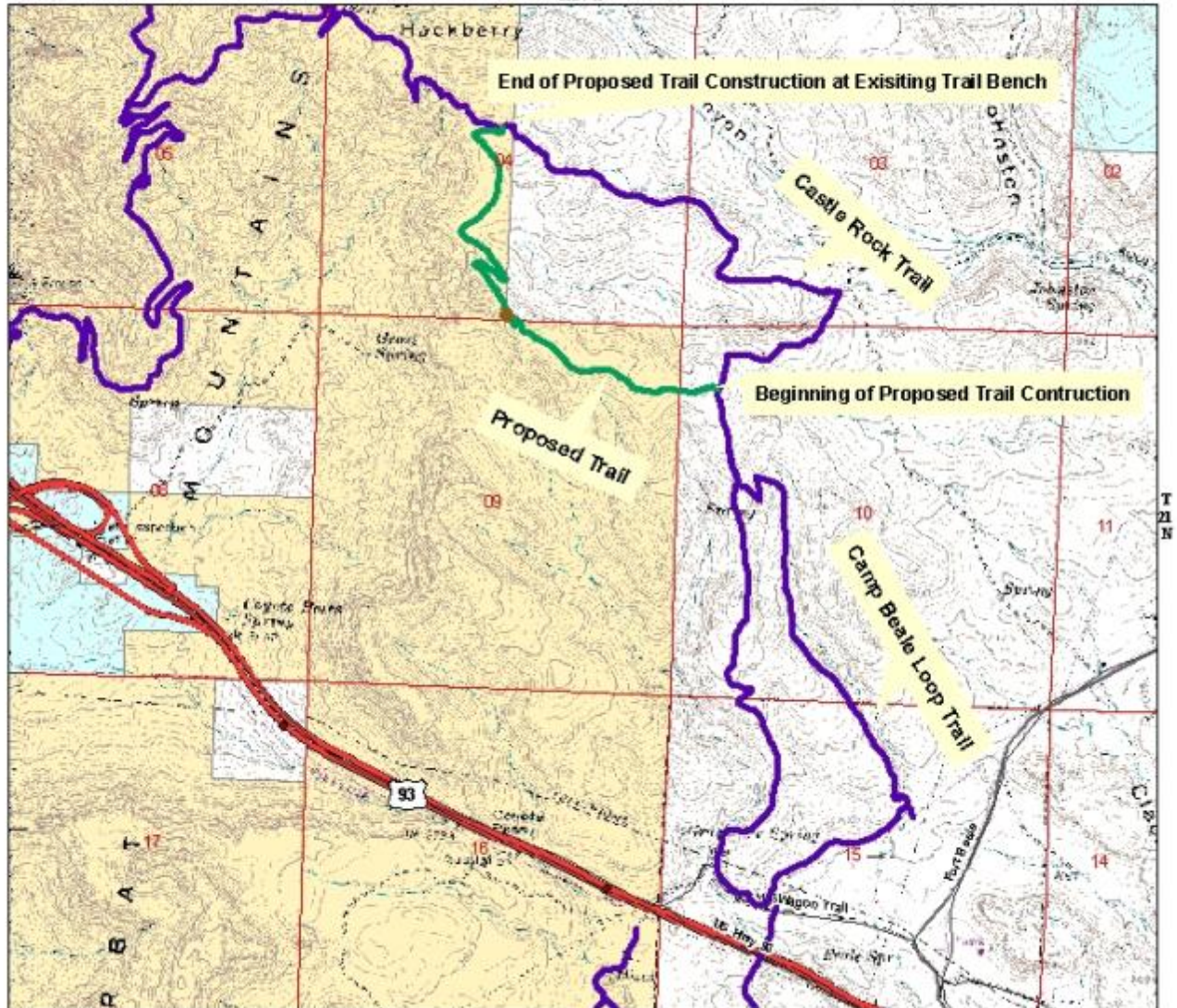
Bureau of Land Management  
Tim Watkins, Archaeologist  
Ammon Wilhelm, Biologist  
Len Marceau, Outdoor Recreation Planner

City of Kingman  
Rob Owens, Public Works Director

Preparer(s): Amanda Deeds  
Environmental Coordinator: Ramone McCoy

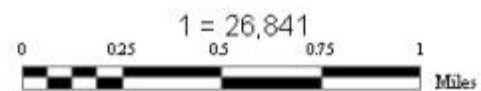
# Castle Rock Connector Loop

R17W



## Legend

- |                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Proposed Gate Location | Private Lands                   |
| Existing Trail         | State Lands                     |
| New Proposed Trail     | Bureau of Land Management (BLM) |



United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Arizona State Office  
Last State updated as of August, 2010  
Map created on Apr 30, 2012



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## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

### **KINGMAN FIELD OFFICE**

#### **KFO Trailhead and Trails Maintenance NEPA# DOI- BLM-AZ-C010-2012-25-EA**

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the discussion of environmental impacts. I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The potential impacts that have been identified are localized and are of relatively short duration. No off-site, indirect or cumulative impacts were identified. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan.

\_\_\_\_\_/ s / Ruben A. Sanchez

Ruben Sanchez  
Field Manager  
Kingman Field Office

\_\_\_\_\_/ 5/11/2012

Date

\_\_\_\_\_/ s / Rob Owens

Rob Owens  
Public Works Director  
City of Kingman

\_\_\_\_\_/ 5/14/2012

Date

## DECISION RECORD

### KINGMAN FIELD OFFICE

#### **KFO Trailhead and Trails Maintenance NEPA# DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2012-25-EA**

It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in Environmental Assessment **DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2012-25-EA**. This decision will result in the construction and maintenance of one non-motorized trail.

Monitoring of this work will be performed by the recreation staff of the Kingman Field Office.

#### **Rationale:**

My decision to approve the Proposed Action analyzed in **DOI-BLM-AZ-C010-2012-25-EA** is based on the following:

The Proposed Action has been analyzed, with no significant impacts anticipated, as stated in the FONSI signed on May 11, 2012, thus an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The environmental assessment adequately covers all affected resource values.

Implementation of the proposed action provides trail users with a safe, well defined trail that will limit soil erosion.

The decision to allow the Proposed Action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation, and is in conformance with the *Kingman Resource Management Plan* and the *Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area Management Plan*.

#### **Alternatives Considered:**

**Proposed Action:** Construct and maintain an approximately one and a half mile connector trail within the Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area. The trail would begin north of Camp Beale Loop on City of Kingman land in Section 10. From Camp Beale Loop, the proposed trail would head west on a reclaiming jeep route for 1/10 of a mile on City lands before entering Public lands in Section 9. From there, the trail would continue along the reclaiming route for approximately half a mile before turning North onto Section 4 crossing City lands for less than 1/10 of a mile. A swing gate would be constructed where the trail crosses a fence line that runs North-South in Section 04 and designates the boundary between BLM and City of Kingman Lands. This gate will allow trail user's access and will not impair the fence's ability to act as a barrier for cattle. From there, the trail would continue on another three quarters of a mile in public lands. The trail would end on public lands at a bench on Castle Rock Trail.

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The “**No Action**” **alternative** was considered for this project. Under the “No Action” alternative, the proposed repairs and improvements would not occur.

### **Appeals:**

In accordance with Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2931.8(a) and (b), if you are adversely affected by this decision, you may appeal the decision under Title 43 CFR, Part 4 and Part 1840. This decision will go into effect immediately and will remain in effect while appeals are pending unless a stay is granted under 43 CFR 4.21(b).

### **Standards for Obtaining a Stay**

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

### **Approved By:**

\_\_\_\_\_/ s / Ruben A. Sanchez  
Ruben Sanchez  
Field Manager  
Kingman Field Office

\_\_\_\_\_/ 5/11/2012  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_/ s / Rob Owens  
Rob Owens  
Public Works Director  
City of Kingman

\_\_\_\_\_/ 5/14/2012  
Date